

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 OCTOBER 1985

PLO-Jordan

Jordan and the PLO have agreed to establish a joint committee empowered to decide on "any issue pertaining to the Palestinian-Jordanian joint move," Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf announced in a statement reported by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio following PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's talks with King Husayn. At an Amman news conference reported by the radio, 'Arafat stated that the new committee will seek to promote coordination and cooperation, linking its establishment with his discussions with Husayn on the breakdown of the London talks. 'Arafat said he and Husayn have "completely reassessed" the situation in the wake of what happened in London, taking into account the need to "overcome this tragedy." The PLO will make efforts to renew contacts with the British Government, he noted, and its relationship with Jordan is "so strong it cannot be affected by an incident here or there." Nevertheless, he acknowledged that Jordan's rapprochement with Syria "undoubtedly" affects PLO-Jordanian relations and called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to join the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. On relations with Egypt, 'Arafat disclosed that he will visit Cairo "very soon." While expressing concern about the killing of a U.S. citizen aboard the *Achille Lauro*, 'Arafat accused President Reagan of pushing the United States into direct involvement in the Middle East crisis. He expressed readiness to accept all UN resolutions relating to the Palestine question but stressed that he is not begging for any "qualification" from the United States to gain entry into the peace process. Subsequent talks between 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i focused on ways to avoid obstacles to Palestinian-Jordanian joint action, Amman television noted.

Israel and Jordan

Commenting on a violation of Israeli airspace by two Jordanian planes, IDF sources cited by Jerusalem radio stated that the incident demonstrates the aerial danger facing Israel from the Jordanian front and explains why Israel opposes the supply of sophisticated planes to Jordan. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset that the Jordanian aircraft entered Israeli airspace by error during a training flight, according to the radio, which also disclosed that a missile was fired at the planes from Syrian territory after they left Israeli airspace.

A senior source in Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office asserted that Israel and Jordan have reached "full understanding" about the way to start bilateral negotiations, *DAVAR* reported. A meeting between the Israeli and Jordanian prime minister could take place by the end of the year under UN auspices, *DAVAR* added.

Egypt

King Husayn did not reject Israeli Prime Minister Peres' proposals "in their totality" but "registered his objections to particular

points," President Husni Mubarak said in remarks reported by MENA. Mubarak added that he will not meet with Peres until Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon, progress is achieved on the Palestinian issue, and an agreement is reached on Tabah.

Lebanon

The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, in a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, announced its decision to cut short the ban on the *AL-'AMAL* newspaper in response to pleas by the Maronite patriarch and journalists. *AL-'AMAL* will reappear 31 October under the new editor in chief appointed by the committee, Saj'an al-Qazzi.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes attacked Iraq's oil installations in Al-Halfayah and Darband 29 October, causing "considerable casualties and losses," according to an Iranian Joint Staff communique reported by IRNA. The attack was denied in a statement to INA by an Iraqi military spokesman, who said that the attacking Iranian planes were forced to flee before reaching "any vital target." As for Iraqi raids on Iranian targets, the Iranian communique confirmed that Iraqi planes attacked Ilam but did not mention the damage to radio and television stations claimed by Iraq. In its 29 October communique carried by Voice of the Masses Radio, the Iraqi General Command claimed other successful air raids against the Bahregan oil field and the telecommunications station in Karand.

In the ground conflict, an Iranian commander cited by IRNA announced that Iranian forces have destroyed 8 Iraqi companies and liberated 64 outposts since beginning their offensive 23 October.

Pakistan

While a statement by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the nuclear issue has ended Pakistani "anxiety," Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said in remarks reported by Karachi radio that Pakistan will "retaliate with all its might" if India attacks the Kahuta nuclear plant.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio announced that the Afghan Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul and told him that Pakistani interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs must stop. This followed an incident in which a nondiplomatic staff member at a Pakistani Consulate had been caught "red-handed" exchanging documents in Qandahar Province on 28 October.

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Pakistani Caught in 'Espionage' Act; Envoy Summoned
LD291934 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today at 1430 and the following points were stated to him by the director of First Political Section:

The reactionary forces of the region engage in hostile and motivated interference in the territory of our homeland, the DRA, and in various forms have attempted to implement their subversive activities. Their activities of this sort have been consistently exposed and brought to the attention of our compatriots.

According to a report by a security source, a nondiplomatic staff member of the Pakistani Consulate in Qandahar Province, Mohammad Shah, who was engaged in unlawful acts of espionage in our homeland was caught red-handed by our security force on Aqrab 6 [28 Oct] while exchanging documents. Once again, the illegitimate actions and shameless interferences of the reactionary Government of Pakistan in our country were revealed.

Karmal Receives Tajik SSR's Makhamov
LD300156 KABUL Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, at Revolutionary Council headquarters this afternoon in Gul Khana Palace met Kakhar Makhamov, chairman [as heard] of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers and his delegation. They discussed subjects of mutual interest in a very friendly and sincere atmosphere.

Babrak Karmal welcomed the arrival of the honored guests of the Tajik SSR in Kabul — the birthplace of the April Revolution — and expressed his congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of Afghan-Soviet friendship days.

Babrak Karmal shed light on the traditional and historic Afghan-Soviet friendship, which was transformed into fraternity after the glorious April Revolution, in particular in its new development stage, and recalled with appreciation the selfless, friendly, and humane assistance given the workers of revolutionary Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

Babrak Karmal spoke about the most friendly and fraternal relations between the people of Afghanistan with the people of the Tajik SSR who have many things in common from the viewpoint of culture and education, and he wished for even further consolidation and broadening of this friendship.

At this meeting, Babrak Karmal expressed condolences to the high-ranking delegation concerning the recent earthquake in Tajikistan where our Tajik brethren have suffered material and human losses, and he conveyed the sympathy of the people of revolutionary Afghanistan.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent reports that the chairman of the Tajik SSR Council of Ministers then expressed pleasure at meeting and talking with Babrak Karmal, and spoke about the infallible and fraternal relations existing between the people of Afghanistan and the people of Tajikistan.

Makhamov expressed delight at the great victories achieved by the working people of Afghanistan and wished further victories for them.

Present at this meeting also were Gol Dad, vice chairman of the DRA council of Ministers and deputy head of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society.

World Leaders Send Message to Reagan, Gorbachev
BK291601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1541 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report just received says that leaders of six countries, including the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, have sent a joint message to the American President, Mr Reagan, and the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, seeking suspension of nuclear tests for 12 months. They said that the suspension could be extended or made permanent.

The other signatories to the message are the Argentine president, Mr Raul Alfonsin; the Mexican president, Mr Miguel de la Madrid; the Tanzanian president, Mr Julius Nyerere; and the prime ministers Olof Palme of Sweden and Andre Papandreu of Greece.

U.S. Response 'Cold'

BK300850 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT
30 Oct 85

[Excerpt] The United States has shown a cold response to the appeal made by India and five other countries to suspend nuclear tests for a period of 12 months. A spokesman of the U.S. State Department said in Washington that his country is studying the proposal. Nuclear testing is required to ensure continued effectiveness of the U.S. deterrent and to ensure the reliability and safety of the American arsenal, he added.

Border With Bangladesh Termed 'Disturbed Areas'
BK291023 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] The Assam Government has declared a 3-km belt in the district of Dubri, Karimganj, and Cachchar along the border with Bangladesh as disturbed areas. The order, issued in a notification under the Assam Disturbed Areas Act, comes into force from today for a period of 3 months.

Punjab To Remain Restricted Area Until 2 Dec
BK291615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] The Union Home Ministry in New Delhi announced today that the whole of Punjab will continue to remain a restricted area under the Foreigners Restricted Areas Order till 2 December this year. An official pressnote says that no foreign passport holder can enter Punjab for any purpose without obtaining a special

permission from the Government of India or other Indian missions abroad or the home secretary of the Punjab government.

Congress-I Party Worker Killed in Amritsar District
BK291609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] In Amritsar District, a Congress-I worker, Mr Yaspal, was killed when two unidentified persons fired at him near Naushera Punwan this afternoon. The victim was going on a scooter. The police have launched a vigorous search for the assailants.

In the state assembly, all the Congress-I members today staged a walkout in protest against the murder of a number of Congress-I workers during the last few days.

Government Bans Extremist Groups in Manipur
BK291648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] The center has declared (Mitei) extremist organizations of Manipur as unlawful associations. The declaration, made under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967, comes into force from last Saturday [26 October]. It will be enforced for 2 years.

The organizations declared unlawful are: People's Liberation Army; People's Revolutionary Party of (Kanglepak); Red Army of People's Revolutionary Party of (Kanglepak); and offshoots of [words indistinct], like the (Kanglepak) Communist Party and its armed wing and other bodies set up by these organizations.

An official announcement in New Delhi today said that (Mitei) extremist organizations have openly declared as their objective the formation of an independent Manipur. They have also resorted to violent activities to bring about secession of the State of Manipur from the union of India.

Extremists Surrender to Punjab Authorities
BK290320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
29 Oct 85

[Text] Nine more extremists in Punjab, including six proclaimed offenders, yesterday surrendered before the district advisory committee in Amritsar. According to police, they surrendered at an open session of the committee in Patti area. With this, the number of extremists who surrendered so far before the committee has gone up to 20. The committee was set up in pursuance of the Punjab government's decision to inspire youths to come out and lead a dignified life.

President To Begin State Visit to Egypt 2 November
BK291635 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
 29 Oct 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will pay a 3-day state visit to Egypt beginning Saturday [2 November] at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak. During the talks between the two leaders, matters of mutual interest and regional and international issues will be considered. The talks will further promote bilateral relations. Radio Pakistan's correspondent says that the president's visit is part of Pakistan's continuous efforts to forge closer links with Islamic states. According to Radio Pakistan's correspondent, observers are attaching great importance to the visit, the first by a Pakistani head of state to Egypt in 24 years. Pakistan enjoys fraternal relations with Egypt, and the Egyptian Government and people greatly appreciated the personal efforts by the president for readmission of Egypt into the Islamic Conference Organization; they are awaiting the president's visit with great (?eagerness).

Foreign Minister Reiterates Position on Nuclear Issue
BK291632 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
 29 Oct 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has reiterated that Pakistan is ready to go all the way with full sincerity and solemn commitment to solve the nuclear issue with India. He was speaking on similar adjournment motions moved in the Senate today by Mr Mohammad Tariq Chaudhury, Maulana Kauser Niat O, MR Mohsin Siddiqui, and Nabi Baksh Zehri.

The foreign minister clarified the various proposals put forward by Pakistan publicly and privately. These proposals include signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by both countries, a bilateral agreement for the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapon, guarantees for safeguards on a bilateral level, and inspection of each other's nuclear installations. He said if India does not accept these proposals, then Pakistan is ready to consider any proposal that could solve this issue, which has been the reason for tension between the two countries and has created misunderstanding in the United States and the Western world. The foreign minister said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had advanced this argument during his meeting with the Indian prime minister. The president also clarified this point during his talks with President Reagan. He said it is clear that all efforts to solve the nuclear issue are being made on a regional basis. If a solution to the nuclear issue is to be found, then it has to be of a regional nature.

Referring to Rajiv Gandhi's statement in New York that President Reagan told him that you should stop Pakistan before its nuclear program reaches a point of no return, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan recalled that on his return home from New York the president had told a press conference that as far as he understood it, the U.S. President's statement had been misquoted. What President Reagan actually meant was that if India had any apprehensions about Pakistan's nuclear program, it should talk with Pakistan because this issue was of a regional nature. The U.S. State Department has corroborated our view. A State Department spokesman said yesterday that the United States is

most certainly not encouraging India to take any unilateral action against Pakistan in this matter or in any other connection. The spokesman said it is in the interest of both India and Pakistan that they should work together to reduce the nuclear threat.

The foreign minister also referred to the Indian prime minister's statement made on his return home, as broadcast by All India Radio. In this statement he clarified his first statement [in New York]. He clearly stated that President Reagan told him that India should reach an agreement with Pakistan on the nuclear issue before the matter reaches a point where a settlement is not possible. The foreign minister said this statement has ended the concern and anxiety created by Rajiv Gandhi's statement in New York.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said our defense preparedness for protecting the Kahuta installations from an attack are as high as our resources permit. He clarified that if such a situation arises, it will surely be an act of war and under such circumstances Pakistan will have no option but to retaliate with all its might. After the foreign minister's statement, the senators did not press their motion.

'Text' of Eighth Constitution Amendment Bill
GF291750 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Oct 85 p 4

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 26: Following is the text of the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill as passed by National Assembly on October 16:

Whereas it is expedient further to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the purposes hereinafter appearing:

It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. Short title and commencement: (1) This act may be called the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Act, 1985.

(2) It shall come into force at once, except section 19 which shall come into force on the day on which the proclamation of the fifth day of July, 1977, is revoked.

2. Amendment of Article 48 of the Constitution: — In the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the Constitution, in Article 48, —

(a) in clause (1), —

(i) for the commas and words "the prime minister, or appropriate minister" the words "or the prime minister" shall be substituted; and

(ii) for the proviso the following shall be substituted, namely:

"provided that the president may require the cabinet or, as the case may be, the prime minister to reconsider such advice, either generally or otherwise, and the president shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.";

(b) in clause (2), after the words "do so", at the end, the words "and the validity of anything done by the president in his discretion shall not be called in question on any ground whatsoever" shall be omitted;

(c) clause (3) shall be omitted; and

(d) in clause (5), in paragraph (a), for the words "one hundred" the word "ninety" shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of Article 51 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 51, in clause (4), for the word "second" the word "third" shall be substituted.

4. Amendment of Article 56 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 56, for clause (3) the following shall be substituted, namely:

"(3) At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the National Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year the president shall address both houses assembled together and inform the Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament) of the causes of its summons."

5. Amendment of Article 58 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 58, —

(a) in clause (1), in the explanation, for the words "resolution for a vote of no-confidence has been moved" the words "notice of a resolution for a vote of no-confidence has been given" shall be substituted; and

(b) for clause (2) the following shall be substituted, namely:

"(2) notwithstanding anything contained in clause (2) of Article 48, the president may also dissolve the National Assembly in his discretion where, in his opinion, —

(a) a vote of no-confidence having been passed against the prime minister, no other member of the National Assembly is likely to command the confidence of the majority of the members of National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, as ascertained in a session of the National Assembly summoned for the purpose;

(b) a situation has arisen in which the government of the federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary."

6. Amendment of Article 59 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 59 —

(a) in clause (1), in paragraph (c), for the word "chosen" the word "elected" shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (3),

(i) for paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) the following shall be substituted, namely:

"(a) of the members referred to in paragraph (a) of clause (1), seven shall retire after the expiration of the first three years and seven shall retire after the expiration of the next three years;

(b) of the members referred to in paragraph (b) of the aforesaid clause, four shall retire after the expiration of the first three years and four shall retire after the expiration of the next three years;

(c) of the members referred to in paragraph (c) of the aforesaid clause, one shall retire after the expiration of the first three years and two shall retire after the expiration of next three years; and

(d) of the members referred to in paragraph (d) of the aforesaid clause, two shall retire after the expiration of the first three years and three shall retire after expiration of the next three years;"

(ii) in the proviso, the words "or chosen" shall be omitted; and

(c) clause (4) shall be omitted.

7. Amendment of Article 60 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 60, in clause (2), for the word "two" the word "three" shall be substituted.

8. Amendment of Article 75 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 75,—

(a) in clause (1), for the word "forty-five" the word "thirty" shall be substituted; and

(b) for clause (2) the following shall be substituted, namely:

"(2) When the president has returned a bill to Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament), it shall be reconsidered by the Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament) in joint sitting and, if it is again passed, with or without amendment, by the Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament), by the votes of the majority of the members of both houses present and voting, it shall be deemed for the purposes of the Constitution to have been passed by both houses and shall be presented to the president and the president shall not withhold assent therefrom."

9. Amendment of Article 90 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, Article 90 shall be renumbered as clause (1) of that article and, after clause (1), renumbered as aforesaid, the following new clause shall be added, namely:

"(2) Nothing contained in clause (1) shall:

(a) be deemed to transfer to the president any functions conferred by any existing law on the government of any province or other authority; or

(b) prevent the Majlis-e-Shoora (parliament) from conferring by law functions on authorities other than the president."

10. Amendment of Article 91 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 91. —

(a) after clause (2), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(2a) notwithstanding anything contained in clause (2), after the twentieth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and ninety, the president shall invite the member of the National Assembly to be the prime minister who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly, as ascertained in a session of the Assembly summoned for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

(b) in clause (3), after the brackets and figure "(2)", the words, commas, brackets, figure and letter "or, as the case may be, invited under clause (2a)" shall be inserted; and

(c) for clause (5) the following shall be substituted, namely:

"(5) The prime minister shall hold office during the pleasure of the president, but the president shall not exercise his powers under this clause unless he is satisfied that the prime minister does not command the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly, in which case he shall summon the National Assembly and require the prime minister to obtain a vote of confidence from the Assembly".

11. Amendment of Article 101 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 101. —

(a) in clause (1), for the words "in his discretion" the words "after consultation with the prime minister" shall be substituted;

(aa) in clause (2), the proviso shall be omitted;

(b) clause (2a) shall be omitted; and

(c) in clause (5), after the word "governor" at the end, the words "in any contingency not provided for in this part" shall be added.

12. Amendment of Article 105 of the Constitution. In the Constitution, in Article 105. —

(a) in clause (1),

(i) for the comma and words "chief minister or appropriate minister" the words "or the chief minister" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the first proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely:

"provided that the governor may require the Cabinet or, as the case may be, the chief minister to reconsider such advice, whether generally or otherwise, and the governor shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration."; and

(b) in clause (2), for the comma and words "the Cabinet or a minister" the words "or the Cabinet" shall be substituted; and

(c) in clause (5), for the brackets and figure "(3)" the brackets and figure "(2)" shall be substituted.

13. Amendment of Article 106 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 106, in clause (4), for the word "second" the word "third" shall be substituted. —

14. Amendment of Article 112 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, Article 112 shall be renumbered as clause (1) of that article and, —

(a) in clause (1), renumbered as aforesaid, in the explanation, for the words "resolution for a vote of no-confidence has been moved" the word "notice of a resolution for a vote of no-confidence has been given" shall be substituted; and

(b) after clause (1), renumbered and amended as aforesaid, the following new clause shall be added, namely:-

"(2) the governor, may also dissolve the Provincial Assembly in his discretion, but subject to the previous approval of the President, where, in his opinion,

(a) a vote of no-confidence having been passed against the chief minister, no other member of the Provincial Assembly is likely to command the confidence of the majority of the members of the Provincial Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, as ascertained in a session of the Provincial Assembly summoned for the purpose; or

(b) a situation has arisen in which the government of the province cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary."

15. Amendment of Article 116 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 116. —

(a) in clause (2), for the word "forty-five" the word "thirty" shall be substituted; and

(b) for clause (3) the following shall be substituted, namely:

"(3) When the Governor has returned a bill to the Provincial Assembly, it shall be reconsidered by the Provincial Assembly and, if it is again passed, with or without amendment, by the Provincial Assembly, by the votes of the majority of the members of the Provincial Assembly present and voting, it shall be again presented to the governor and the governor shall not withhold assent therefrom."

16. Amendment of Article 130 of the Constitution. — In the Constitution, in Article 130. —

(a) after clause (2), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:

"(2a) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (2), after the twentieth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight, the governor shall invite the member of the Provincial Assembly to be the chief minister who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the Provincial Assembly,

as ascertained in a session of the Assembly summoned for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution:

Provided that nothing contained in this clause shall apply to a chief minister holding office on the twentieth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutions.”;

(b) in clause (3), after the brackets and figure “(2)”, the words, commas, brackets, figure and letter “or, as the case may be, invited under clause (2a)” shall be inserted; and

(c) for clause (5) the following shall be substituted, namely:

“(5) The chief minister shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor, but the governor shall not exercise his powers under this clause unless he is satisfied that the chief minister does not command the confidence of the majority of the members of the Provincial Assembly, in which case, he shall summon the Provincial Assembly and require the chief minister to obtain a vote of confidence from the Assembly.”

BHUTAN

Nation To Begin Diplomatic Ties With Europe*HK301112 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 30 Oct 85*

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 30 (AFP) — Bhutan is to open diplomatic relations with three European countries in a move to establish its first official links with countries outside Asia, diplomats said here today. Spokesmen from Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the European Economic Community (EEC) today told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that their ambassadors here would travel to Thimpu on Tuesday to present credentials to King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

A Bhutanese Embassy spokesman here said the establishment of diplomatic relations with the EEC member-countries was in line with Thimpu's policy of opening up the state and seeking more international assistance for the country's development.

Bhutan has diplomatic relations with India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, but it only maintains embassies in New Delhi and Dhaka. Thimpu also has a permanent representative at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, as well as a consulate in Kuwait and honorary consuls in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Area experts do not foresee a change in New Delhi's relations with Bhutan, where a 1949 Indo-Bhutan treaty provides for a special relationship between India and the Himalayan kingdom and stipulates that Bhutan will be guided by India in the conduct of external relations. There has never been an occasion for either country to invoke the treaty and the king does not feel constrained by it, area experts said. India has played a major supporting role in Bhutan's development.

Western diplomats said that Thimpu choose the European countries with a view to avoiding a clash of interest with India and to seeking more aid for development.

Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering said in interviews published last month that Thimpu would seek development aid from EEC and Nordic countries.

Meanwhile, Bhutanese sources said Thimpu did not currently plan to establish diplomatic relations with any of the world's leading powers, but that it would continue to maintain "good relations" with them through its representative in New Delhi. The tiny kingdom of 1.4 million people has just 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles) of road and about 94 percent of the labour force is engaged in agriculture. The estimated gross national product last year was 1,346 million ngultrums (49.8 million dollars), making Bhutan one of the world's poorest countries.

SRI LANKA

Tamils Claim Government Unwilling To Settle Disputes*HK281232 Hong Kong AFP in English 1150 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 28 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Tamil separatist organization today accused the Colombo government of being unwilling to reach a political settlement of the country's ethnic crisis, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. The policy-making politburo of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) made the statement after a meeting in the southern Indian city of Madras. TULF said Colombo's alleged unwillingness to reach a political settlement was indicated by Sri Lankan President Julius Jayewardene's recent statement in London that the separatists would be defeated within a year.

The TULF also rejected Mr. Jayewardene's reported statement that some Tamils were trying to establish a Marxist state in the island nation. No Tamil group had made such claims, it said.

The politburo also said a ceasefire accord between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil militants earlier this month would be a farce if the government continued its alleged policy of attacking the militants. In such a situation, the 11-member multi-racial ceasefire monitoring committee would not serve any purpose either, the TULF statement said.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority have been waging a violent campaign for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the country, alleging discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Terrorists Kill Six Policemen in Batticaloa*BK291105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Six policemen were killed in a terrorist landmine ambush in Batticalao at 1600 [1030 GMT] last evening at Velavali. LANKA PUWATH, quoting security sources, said that a convoy of two police jeeps and a water [word indistinct], which was in the center, were proceeding along the road when at (Bastiella) a landmine exploded and the terrorists simultaneously fired at the policemen from the side of the road. The officer in charge of the Velavali police station, who was in leading jeep, and five police constables were killed.

In another incident at 2230 [1700 GMT] last night at (Santibagi), two terrorists tried to explode a landmine on a two-man police patrol, which suffered only minor injury.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Surinam*LD300757 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 30 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA — Iran and Surinam established diplomatic ties Tuesday following a visit by consular and cultural deputy of Iran's Foreign Ministry Javad Mansuri to that country.

The establishment of relations between the two countries was agreed in a meeting between Mansuri and Surinam's foreign minister.

During the meeting, Mansuri also explained Iran's stance towards Latin American, African and Middle Eastern countries. He also referred to Iran's policy of non-interference in the affairs of other countries.

Mansuri also had separate meetings with a number of other Surinam high-ranking officials during which he discussed framework for future bilateral cooperation.

Mansuri and his accompanying delegation left Surinam Tuesday night.

Kuwait Expulsion of Iranian Workers Reported*LD271613 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 27 Oct 85*

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Prov., Oct. 26, IRNA — The Kuwaiti Government expelled another 14 Iranian workers Friday, in an unabating campaign of hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. The expelled persons were detained up to 30 days and their properties were confiscated. On arrival here they were taken to Gonaveh port to be settled.

Kuwait had expelled 113 workers last month and another 42 earlier this month.

Further Details*GF281433 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Oct 85*

[Text] The Government of Kuwait, continuing its hostile actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, has expelled another 89 Muslim Iranian workers living in that country. According to a Central News Unit report, this group arrived in Bushehr via the Persian Gulf maritime borders on a number of motor launches and have been housed in a special camp for the deportees in the city. We remind you that this group was also tortured and persecuted in Kuwaiti prisons prior to their expulsion.

Tehran: Syria Declares 'Unflinching' Support*LD271207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Oct 85*

[Text] The Syrian Arab Republic's ambassador in Tehran met Foreign Minister Velayati yesterday and handed him a message from Faruq Shar' the Syrian foreign affairs minister. According to the Central News Unit, the Syrian minister of foreign affairs' message says that certain political and news agency sources are

trying to give the impression that the attempts by the committee for the settlement of differences between Arab countries are indicative of differences between Iran, Libya, and Syria. What they intend to do is to create doubts in the confident relations between the three countries, thus causing harm to the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front in the region. They are trying to create the false impression that Syria has adopted a new stand on the Iran-Iraq war. Consequently, in the light of such attempts, the Syrian Government issued an official statement in reply to reports published in the regional newspapers and through the statement reiterated its unflinching stand with regard to the war, which was started by the Saddam regime.

Another part of the message says that Syria is fully aware of both the importance of the solidarity among Iran, Syria, and Libya and the attempts made by enemies to create division among the progressive countries by isolating and weakening each country.

Having said that, Syria considers the statements made by reactionary quarters and the information published by news agencies, who claim that the grounds for a so-called reconciliation between Syria and Iraq have been prepared as part of a propaganda assault, particularly in view of the fact that these circles know that any reconciliation with the [Iraqi] regime is impossible. Taking cognizance of the intrinsic differences between the two systems, the Syrian Arab Republic's viewpoint regarding the fascist Iraqi regime, and the dubious role adopted by that regime in the region — the criminal war against the Islamic Republic being a case in point — Syria informed the committee for the settlement of Arab differences that the grounds for negotiations on relations between Syria and Iraq are totally nonexistent.

The report then adds that Foreign Minister Velayati, having expressed his gratitude to Faruq Shar' said: Our close relations with the regional progressive countries stem from their revolutionary, anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, and antireactionary stands. We are convinced that the ties and the solidarity between the three countries of Syria, Iran, and Libya are a strategic bond. Our enemies cannot affect it by such methods. After all, our confidence in our Syrian brothers are more extensive than to be affected by such propaganda.

Musavi Addresses Envoys to Arab, African States*LD292048 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran's world view is conditioned by the socio-political influence of the Islamic revolution and is therefore markedly different from that of other countries.

In his address to ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Arab and African countries, on a home-coming visit for their annual seminar, Musavi said that based upon this world perception the Islamic Republic should found strategic national foreign policies based upon Islamic values.

He said that research institutes which formulate such policies not only serve the national security interest but also Iran's foreign

policy affairs. It would also augment the dissemination of the message of the Islamic revolution to the world, he said.

The premier noted that despite the West's prestigious research think tanks the Westerners have yet proven inept at understanding the issues of the East as well as Third World countries. Iran, he added, can understand the domestic affairs of these countries because of its concern derived from the experience of the Islamic revolution, "its phenomenon is incomprehensible to the West," Musavi said.

Musavi said that because of the similarity of the foreign-imposed plights afflicting the deprived countries of the world Iran cannot can not help but develop closer relations with them.

Iran's embassies should hasten to aid Iran's various domestic organizations so that the best of the cumulative experiences abroad can be utilised in the interest of the Muslim world.

Velayati Addresses Envoys

*GF291004 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] In his address to a seminar of Islamic Republic ambassadors and charges d'affaires in Arab and African countries, Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati affirmed Iran's interest in its relations with Islamic, African, and Third World countries. He said: Our goal is to spread truth. On this basis we have taken the initiative to extend help and assistance to brother Muslims in Islamic and African countries to the best of our ability. We have sent financial, technical, and medical assistance to these countries.

Referring to the latest developments in the imposed war, Dr Velayati said: The Iraqi regime has been unable to carry out its evil intentions to halt our oil exports. Our oil is being exported, thank God, in great quantities.

Ahmad 'Azizi, chairman of the Majlis foreign affairs committee, also addressed the seminar. He stressed that the main axis of our activities in foreign policy must be the liberation of Jerusalem. 'Azizi reviewed the U.S. plots and called for uncovering and foiling them.

Majlis Ratifies Press Act Publication Articles

*LD291311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
29 Oct 85*

[Central News Unit correspondent reports on 29 October Majlis session]

[Text] The debate on the Press Act continued in this morning's Majlis session and eight more articles were ratified.

One of the articles states: Publications by real or corporate bodies, with Iranian capital, with permits from the Islamic Guidance Ministry, are allowed. Publications by Islamic liberation organizations from other countries can be published with

the capital and responsibility of non-Iranians, within the framework of the laws concerning foreigners resident in Iran and the approval of the Islamic Guidance and Foreign Affairs Ministries.

In accordance with another approved article, the conditions for real bodies applying as publishers are as follows:

Iranian citizenship; 25 years of age; no (?criminal record); no bankruptcy record; no record of embezzlement and negligence [taqsir]; moral suitability; no effective penal record; and sufficient technical knowledge as recognized by the supervisory committee, as stated in Article 7 of the act. Also, those applying for publications can propose a suitable person as chief editor, in accordance with the conditions set forth in this article, after he has accepted the responsibility.

For internal publications of government or private organizations, institutes, and companies, which are published solely for the employees and given out free of charge, permits from the Islamic Guidance Ministry and the observance of Article 2 of the Act will suffice.

One publication is allowed per permit. The publisher is responsible for the publication's general policy and each and every article published. The rest of the matters connected with the publication are the responsibility of the chief editor.

Prime ministers, ministers, governors-general; high-ranking military, police and gendarmerie officers; heads of government organizations, managing directors, and chairmen of boards of directors of companies, banks, and all companies and institutes, who, according to the stipulation of the order, are required to be identified by name; Majlis deputies, ambassadors, governors, mayors, chairmen of councils of cities, Tehran, and provincial capitals; SAVAK members, heads of Rastakhiz [defunct prerevolution party] branches in Tehran, provincial capitals and other towns and those affiliated to the previous regime who held the said offices between 15 khordad 1342 to 22 bahman 1357 [5 June 1963 to 11 February 1978], and also those who served the previous regime during that period by making speeches in the press, radio and TV, are forbidden from publishing.

IRNA Carries Biographies of Newly Approved Ministers

LD290025 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA — Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, 37, the new minister of oil was born in Khvoy, Azarbaijan Province and is a computer engineer from Tehran University. He was active in anti-government activities in the former regime and after the revolution became the manager of the Daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper.

In 1980 he became deputy foreign minister in charge of financial affairs and the minister of state in charge of executive affairs in 1982. He was deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs prior to his recent appointment.

State [Interior]-Mohtashemi [subhead]

The new Minister of state, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, 39 was the ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Syria prior to his new appointment. In 1982 he was injured when a letter bomb exploded in his hands.

Mohtashemi studied in Najaf's theological school alongside Imam Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic revolution. He accompanied the imam to Paris at the height of the Islamic revolution and after coming to Tehran was appointed as the head of the Iranian Radio and Television. He is married and has six children.

Defence — Jalali [subhead]

Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali the new minister of defence was born in Babol, Mazandaran Province, in 1983 [as received]. He received his military training between 1959-79 in the officer school, communications, command, and the joint staff, and studied aviation in Iran as well as Pakistan, Italy, and the United States.

After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, he held several positions in the air support unit for the ground forces. Active in a number of war offensives, he was awarded a medal of honor for his bravery. He is married and has five children.

Higher Ed. — Farhadi [subhead]

Mohammad Farhadi who was appointed the new minister of culture and higher education was born in 1949 in Shahrud, Semnan Province. He became a doctor of medicine in 1975 receiving his degree from the University of Meshhad.

After the 1979 Islamic revolution he became a specialist in oto-laryngology. He became a member of the Headquarters for Cultural Revolution in 1981 and deputy of the Red Crescent Society a year later.

His last post was as the head of the Tehran University. He is married and has two daughters and one son.

Rds. Transport — Kiya [subhead]

The newly appointed minister of roads and transportation, Mohammad Seyyed Kiya was born in Esfahan in 1946.

He received a M.A. degree in the field of civil engineering from Polytechnic University in 1969. Immediately after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 he joined the reconstruction jihad.

In 1983, Seyyed Kiya was selected as deputy of Iran's state railway. He is married and has three children.

Plan and Budget — Zanjani [Subhead]

The newly appointed minister of plan and budget, Mas'ud Zanjani-Raghani was born in Zanzan in Zanzan Province in 1953.

He studied economics at Martyr Behesti University (former National University) in 1971 and after completion in 1975 went

to the U.S. where he received M.A. degree in economics from a Western Illinois university in early 1979.

He returned to Iran and started cooperating with the Secretariat of the Islamic Revolution Council.

Zanjani taught economics at the Commerce College in 1980 till 1983 and since then has been working as deputy minister of plan and budget in charge of executive affairs and as deputy prime minister in this ministry since 1984.

Energy — Banki [subhead]

The newly appointed minister of energy, Mohammad Taqi Banki was born in Tehran in 1946.

He graduated from Tehran University in the field of civil engineering in 1968 and after finishing his military service in 1971, he went to the United States where got his PhD in the field of management of construction companies from Missouri University.

After his return to Iran in 1980, he started his work here as the cultural deputy of the Center for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

Afterwards he was appointed as the minister of state in charge of Plan and Budget Organization (the organization later became a ministry) in the cabinet of martyred Prime Minister Bahonar [as heard] who along with the then President Raja'i [as heard] were martyred in explosion on August 30th, 1981.

Banki is married and has three children.

U.S.-UK Anti-War Propaganda Criticized

GF281052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group: "Our Real Issue is War"]

[Excerpts] In the imposed war there are facts that we must reveal to the public. The first fact is the propaganda policy of the enemy about the imposed war, which may be called a psychological war. One principle of the enemy in the war propaganda is to prove the futility and silliness of the Iranian resistance in this imposed war. In conformity with this policy, the enemy is trying through its news commentaries, analyses, and interviews with persons and sources serving its own purposes to make the countries in this region believe that resistance [words indistinct] and that military victory over the enemy is impossible [word indistinct] and that [the war has reached] a stalemate. By the word enemy, we mean all those forces and tendencies confronting the Islamic revolution and the awakening of our anticolonialist passion and that of nations of this region that are against the world imperialism.

The first target of the world imperialist propaganda on the war is our Islamic resistance to foreign aggression. They claim its futility and uselessness and say the war had reached a stalemate. In their propaganda, they say that our fight and our resistance in

this imposed war not only does not harm the enemy but in fact helps the enemy. It is being said that this war is helping the superpowers.

If this imposed war is a forgotten cause, and if in reality this war has reached a stalemate, and if our resistance and perseverance in this imposed war does not harm the superpowers or actually benefits them, then why is a major volume of propaganda being aimed against our resistance in this imposed war? Are you aware that during recent decades the imperialist media — on all matters threatening imperialist interests — have never directed such voluminous tirades as they have against this threat by our national resistance in this imposed war, nor has there been so much reaction. If our resistance in this imposed war is a forgotten resistance or is meaningless, then why are all the radios in the imperialist countries, day and night, in their news reports and commentaries commenting on the imposed war and directing a majority of their energy in trying to destroy the will of our nation?

If all these billions of dollars being spent by the United States and Britain on propaganda against the Islamic Republic and against Islam were spent on the hungry in Africa, would it not have helped their own global interests? It seems madness has captured the imperialist news media, or do they feel threatened by our continued resistance in this imposed war? It is for this reason that they are trying their best to destroy the will of our people by various ruses and devices. According to an estimate regarding superpower propaganda during the past 5 years, through foreign radio the media have called on the Iranians 113,600 times to stop their resistance and accept the superpower plans on this imposed war. Does not this Western mass media effort prove that not only our resistance in this imposed war has not reached a stalemate, and that our resistance is not silly or forgotten, but that this resistance has shaken the ground under superpower control in this region? And this is why the superpowers, through their propaganda, international lobbying, and various political, economic, and cultural pressures are trying to plant a so-called moderate conspiratorial faction within all the revolutionary countries: who — while chanting "In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful" — should surrender and sign the deed guaranteeing their slavery.

Has our war reached a stalemate or has the U.S. policy on this imposed war reached a stalemate? Which one of the two is it?

We believe the U.S. policy on this imposed war has reached a stalemate. This aggressive war was in fact started with the encouragement and planning of the United States. If this were not so, how could Western factories give Iraq all these arms and machinery and the reactionary shaykhs in the region provide Saddam with all those dollars? Without a green light from the White House, the Arab reactionary element cannot act. Every petrodollar is accounted for in the imperialist account books. The United States started this indirect aggression after the failure of its direct military action in Tabas against the Islamic country of Iran, aimed at breaking the will of our nation. It was done to annihilate Islam. However, the United States has reached a stalemate in this criminal policy. Yes, resistance to foreign aggression never reaches a stalemate. It is the aggressor and its calculated aggression which have reached a stalemate. The proof

of this is this scared propaganda from the United States and Britain saying our resistance has reached a stalemate in this imposed war.

The second proof of a U.S. stalemate in this imposed war against the Islamic revolution is the heavy investment by the superpowers. Today the best American resources in the fields of politics, military, and culture are concentrating on this imposed war. The United States, quite falsely, in its propaganda poses as being neutral but in fact is aligned against us.

We, the nation of Islam, if we want to defend our independence, territorial integrity, and the very existence and honor of our country, must act quite opposite to what the radios of the United States and Britain are saying. Some 400 years of colonialism in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have proved that Britain and the United States are enemies of our nations. They want to destroy the will of our people. We must strengthen our military will.

TEHRAN TIMES Criticizes French Middle East Policy *LD291524 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 29 Oct 85*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — The English language *TEHRAN TIMES* in its Tuesday issue editorially commented on the French foreign policy in the Middle East.

The daily said "French the foreign policy [as received] is marred with contradictions. While France professes a just, comprehensive solution to the Middle East problems, it supports not the wronged but the aggressor party in two crucial crises in the region, i.e. the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian issue".

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit to Baghdad Sunday underlines French support for the Ba'thist regime ruling in Iraq. Although there was no official word from the French Foreign Ministry, Dumas in all probability discussed strengthening of bilateral relations and current Middle East developments with Ba'thist officials" the paper added.

"Therefore, from the viewpoint of the people of the region, who have always suspected French intentions due to her colonial history in the Middle East, the dual policy of selling huge amounts of arms to aggressors and striving to achieve so-called just solutions to basic problems, is an obvious plot which the French Government cannot conceal" the daily concluded.

Departure of Troops, Specialists for Fronts Noted *LD271455 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 27 Oct 85*

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in order to support the monotheistic combatants on the battlefronts of war, a group of members from the Basij [mobilization] unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of the central district of Arak, after completing the necessary training, set off for the fronts of war yesterday. A party of brother specialists in welding and wiring buildings, first class drivers, and masons set off for the war fronts

yesterday from the premises of the relief headquarters to the fronts of the Reconstruction Jihad of Karaj, in order to assist their brethren at the fronts.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Planes Attack Border Cities

LD291204 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Ilam, Oct. 29, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi aircraft violated the airspace of a number of Iranian border cities Tuesday and bombarded the city of Ilam at 12:55 local time (09:25 GMT).

At least one person was martyred and ten others were wounded in this inhuman attack. Three educational buildings were also hit by enemy planes.

Fighters Strike Oil Installations

LD291241 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — Iran's fighter planes bombarded Iraqi oil installations in Darband and al-Halfayah, in southern Iraq, at 13:30 (10:00 gmt) Tuesday, an air force command officer said. He added that major damages were inflicted on the Iraqi installations.

All the fighters returned to their base safely after successfully carrying out their mission, he said.

The bombardment was in retaliation for the Iraqi attempt to attack Iran's oil installations in Khuzestan Province, Monday, the officer added.

Communique No 2,273

LD291616 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 29 Oct 85

[“Effective Air Strikes Scored Against Iraqi Oil Installations — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — In response to Iraqi bombardment of Iran's oil fields on Monday, Iran's warplanes at 14:00 hours (11:30 GMT) on Tuesday raided Iraq's oil installations in al-Halfayah and Darband, 30 km southeast of Al-Amarah as a result of which Iraq incurred considerable casualties and losses, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces.

(In an earlier dispatch Tuesday IRNA mistakenly mentioned the time of the raid 13:30 hours local time, which is corrected).

All the planes returned to their bases safely, the command said in its Communique No. 2273.

Iraqi war planes bombarded the suburb of Ilam at 13:00 hours (09:30 GMT) Tuesday wounding three civilians, the communique said.

The command added that Iraqi positions near Bakhtaran border frontlines were shelled over the past 24 hours, in which 15-plus

Iraqis were killed or wounded and one tank, eight bunkers and observation posts destroyed.

In the northwestern fronts, Iraqi Ba'thists sustained heavy casualties and losses and part of their positions and fortifications were set ablaze Monday when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

All enemy aerial violations in these fronts were repulsed by Iran's anti-aircraft units, the communique added.

Exchange of fire continued in Western fronts being more intense in Mehran. Iranian Muslim gendmerie patrol units killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers inflicting substantial damages on them, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian fighters opened fire on Iraqi positions Monday, inflicting considerable casualties and damage and disrupting their engineering and supply operations.

Abadan was shelled by Iraq over the past 24 hours during which four buildings in the city were damaged, the communique concluded.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

GF291439 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the hirelings of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling Iraq attacked the resistant cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr with heavy long-range artillery over the past 24 hours. As a result, four residential units were damaged in Abadan.

Latest Report on 'Ashura-IV'

LD291800 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — The Islamic combatants repulsed the 11th Iraqi counter-attack in recent days smashing four Iraqi commando companies in northern Hawr al-Huwayzah in the “Ashura-4” operation theatre.

The commander of Badr brigade which comprises mostly Iraqi Muslim mujahidin said that according to the latest estimate the Muslim combatants destroyed eight Iraqi companies of brigade 117 and liberated 64 outposts in the “Ashura-4” operations. Seventy five Iraqi troops were also captured by Islamic Forces, among them 25 wounded who were dispatched to hospitals by Iraqi Muslim mujahidin, the commander said.

“Ashura-4” operations started on October 23, the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin located the enemy's outposts in northern Hawr al-Huwayzah, helped by some tribes of the Hawr.

The commander said that the Iraqi command headquarters had ordered its fourth army to fortify defence lines in order to prevent the Islamic forces from advancing. The Iraqi commander of Brigade 117, Colonel Sahib 'Abdallah, along with other com-

manders had taken pledge not to lose northern Hawr al-Huwayzah, he added.

The Iranian commander also said that the defeated Iraqi commander of Brigade 117 as well as other officers of his brigade were summoned to Baghdad and have reportedly been executed by Saddam.

Spokesman Denies Iraqi Border Cities Shelled

LD292259 Tehran IRNA in English 2158 GMT 29 Oct 85

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters [WIH] Tuesday night categorically denied an Iraqi claim that Iran had shelled its border cities.

The spokesman warned the Baghdad government that it would retaliate any Iraqi attack on its civilian areas. He said: "We will carry out predicted deterring measures, in this regard if necessary."

The WIH spokesman stressed that this was a new Iraqi ploy to deviate the public opinion and cover up for its recent defeats in the battlefronts.

He said the Iraqi regime will not succeed, by resorting to such measures, in boosting the moral of its troops.

IRNA: Soviet-Karmal Forces Kill 300 Civilians

LD281819 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 28 Oct 85

[Text] London, Oct. 28, IRNA — Over 300 civilians were martyred and surrounding localities and orchards burnt in large

scale Soviet retaliatory attack on the mujahidin controlled areas of Wardak Province, during the second week of October.

According to the AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY the villages of (Bara Kot Sad Mushk) (Piya Dara) and (Bahd-e Sultana), south-west of Kabul were the worst affected.

The mujahidin defenders killed over 40 Soviet Karmal troops while 17 of mujahidin were martyred, defending the Afghan civilians from the atrocities of Soviet forces. Thirty five Karmal troops moved by the massacre of innocent masses joined the mujahidin, the report concluded.

IRNA on Afghan Mujahidin Successes Against Soviets

LD261109 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 25 Oct 85

[Text] London, Oct. 25, IRNA — Afghan mujahidin shot down two helicopters during operations in Lowgar and Parwan Provinces of Afghanistan recently. During these attacks, 22 Soviet-Karmal troops were killed while three tanks and two oil tankers were destroyed.

AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY sources here said the mujahidin attacked the Soviet contingent near Mohammad Agha town of Lowgar Province killing 6 troops and destroying one tank and two oil tankers. Mujahidin shot down a Soviet helicopter gunship in the same area which was bombing mujahidin's positions.

The pilot and other crew were killed on the spot.

Another report from Parwan said that mujahidin struck a military camp in Kuhestan area near Panjsher Valley, killing 16 Soviet-Karmal troops and destroying two tanks. They also smashed a helicopter to pieces which was found in the military camp.